

## Communication from Public

**Name:** MAR VISTA VOICE  
**Date Submitted:** 06/17/2024 08:05 AM  
**Council File No:** 21-0329-S5  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Please see attached letter from Mar Vista Voice opposing LAMC 41.18 and CM Yaroslavsky's motion.



Council President Paul Krekorian

President Pro-Tempore Marqueece  
Harris-Dawson

Assistant President Pro-Tempore Bob  
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Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez

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Councilmember John Lee

Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez

Councilmember Kevin De Leon

June 16, 2024

City Councilmembers:

We urge you to reject CM Yaroslavsky's CF 21-0329-S5 and any other attempt to "reform" LAMC 41.18. The damning reports from LAHSA and the Chief Legislative Analyst confirm what we all know: this ordinance does significant harm to unhoused people, wastes taxpayer dollars, and exacerbates the homelessness crisis. Efforts to reform broken laws like LAMC 41.18 are doomed to fail because they leave the City's core criminalization functions in place, and do nothing to address the crisis at hand.

In the process of debating and codifying the current iteration of LAMC 41.18, even those Councilmembers who favored displacement and criminalization balked at the legal risk of adopting the ordinance. And for good reason: this law has a long and troubled history, including multiple federal cases striking down the law as violating the Eighth Amendment against cruel and unusual punishment. Despite these concerns, City Council moved in 2021 to adopt the ordinance and further criminalize homelessness, instead of addressing its root causes.

With its calls for more police funding and technological solutions, CM Yaroslavsky's motion echoes the reformist refrain in the wake of the 2020 George Floyd uprising. She complains that criminal enforcement is inconsistent because LAPD resources are "stretched thin," with the only answer being to dump more money into bloated police coffers. And just like reformist proposals in the wake of George Floyd's murder, Yaroslavsky's motion pushes for "better" 41.18 enforcement through data-driven systems that closely track and surveil the very people who are most likely to be victimized by our systems of mass incarceration.

These proposals demonstrate a complete lack of understanding about the core purpose and systemic racism embedded in laws like 41.18. The ordinance's chaotic and inconsistent enforcement are a feature, not a bug. The law was designed to enforce existing relations of power and property and ensure that people with money and influence can use their power to move undesirables from view. No matter how many times the law's proponents claim that the ordinance is intended to preserve public safety and protect the vulnerable, it will always be used to punish poor people and disappear the disastrous effects of racial capitalism.

**Instead of doubling down on failed policy, it is time for this City to hold public and independent hearings on the ordinance, with presentations from all City departments whose findings informed the CLA's report. The hearings must include input from Angelenos experiencing homelessness, as well as community advocates like LACAN whose relentless efforts to highlight the harmful impacts of 41.18 are the only reason you are reexamining the ordinance today.**

Sincerely,

MAR VISTA VOICE